

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 10-12 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-8 under §112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the ~~claim 1~~ recitation of a solid core having a distortion of 2.6 to 3.0 mm is not supported by the broader disclosed range of 2.6 to 6.5, or by the illustrative examples that disclose 2.8 to 4.5 mm.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to be in the form as presented in the Supplemental Amendment filed on September 7, 2004. That is, the recitation dealing with the distortion of the solid core has been removed from claim 1, and is instead set forth in dependent claim 10 with the broader disclosed range.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 9 is allowed.

Conclusion

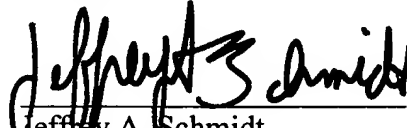
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/511,898

Atty Dkt No. Q58044

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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